CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A method for use in wireless equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal;

processing the received signal to generate a Yamamoto-Itoh (YI) metric,

determining a Bit-Error-Rate (BER) estimate for the received signal as a function of the YI metric,

wherein the determining step further comprises the steps of:

retrieving, from at least one look-up table stored in a memory, a value for a compensation factor as a function of a value of the generated YI metric and an initial BER estimate as a function of the generated YI metric; and

modifying the initial BER estimate value with the retrieved compensation factor value to determine the BER estimate.

3. (Previously presented) A method for use in wireless equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a received signal to generate at least one Yamamoto-Itoh (YI) metric value over a time period;

selecting a compensation factor value as a function of the generated YI metric value;

selecting an initial BER estimate value as a function of the generated YI metric value; and

determining a Bit-Error-Rate (BER) estimate for the received signal as a function of the initial BER estimate value and the selected compensation factor value.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the determining step further includes the step of multiplying the selected compensation factor value by the initial BER estimate value to determine the BER estimate.

5. (Previously presented) A method for use in wireless equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a received signal to determine an initial BER estimate value for the received signal;

modifying the initial BER estimate value for the received signal with a compensation factor value to provide a Bit-Error-Rate (BER) estimate for the received signal, wherein the compensation factor value is determined as a function of at least one Yamamoto Itoh (YI) metric value.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus for use in wireless equipment, the apparatus comprising:

a convolutional decoder for processing a received signal for use in determining at least one Yamamoto-Itoh (YI) metric value,

a processor for determining a Bit-Error-Rate (BER) estimate for the received signal as a function of the at least one YI metric value,

wherein the processor (a) retrieves, from at least one look-up table stored in a memory, a compensation factor value as a function of the at least one YI metric value

and an initial BER estimate value as a function of the at least one YI metric value, and (b) modifies the initial BER estimate value with the retrieved compensation factor value to determine the BER estimate.

8. (Previously presented) Apparatus for use in wireless equipment, the apparatus comprising:

a convolutional decoder for processing a received signal for use in determining at least one Yamamoto-Itoh (YI) metric value,

a processor for determining a Bit-Error-Rate (BER) estimate for the received signal as a function of the at least one YI metric value,

wherein the processor (a) determines a compensation factor value as a function of the at least one YI metric value, (b) determines an initial BER estimate value as a function of the at least one YI metric value, and (c) determines the BER estimate for the received signal as a function of the initial BER estimate value and the selected compensation factor value.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the processor multiplies the selected compensation factor value by the initial BER estimate value to determine the BER estimate.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A wireless receiver comprising:

a memory for storing a look-up table such that an index into the look-up table is a Yamamoto-Itoh (YI) metric value for retrieving an initial Bit-Error-Rate (BER) estimate stored therein; and

a processor for modifying the initial BER value with a scale factor to determine a Bit-Error-Rate (BER) estimate for a received signal.

12. (Previously presented) A method for use in wireless equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a received signal to generate a Yamamoto-Itoh (YI) metric,

determining an initial Bit-Error-Rate (BER) estimate value for the received signal as a function of the YI metric,

selecting, as a function of the generated YI metric, a value for a compensation factor; and

modifying the initial BER estimate value with said compensation factor value to determine the BER estimate.